

INDIANA ARTS COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE
June 3, 2009, 9:00 a.m.

Dick Stifel, Chair

Minutes

Members present: Dick Stifel, Jeanne Mirro, Sandi Clark, Karen Ellerbrook

Members absent: none

IAC staff present: Lewis Ricci, Michelle Anderson, Dennis Hardin

1. **Consent agenda and minutes.** Ms. Mirro convened the meeting at 9:10 a.m. Ms. Clark moved to adopt the consent agenda and meeting minutes from May 5, 2009. Ms. Ellerbrook seconded. Motion passed.

2. **Budget session and advocacy.** The state legislature adjourned on April 29 without passing a state budget for FY2010, and will meet in special session later in June. The governor's draft budget shows a 50% cut in IAC funding, but that number will not become final until passed by the legislature. Mr. Ricci is urging designated commissioners to contact members of the legislature prior to the special session, asking for their consideration of the IAC budget. Mr. Ricci also suggested that a letter be drafted for the governor, expressing the disappointment of the commissioners, having been appointed by the governor, at his apparent lack of support for arts funding compared to other state agencies for which he has recommended only a 10% budget cut. The letter would be signed by all members of the commission. A discussion followed, with the question of the effectiveness of the letter being raised, as well as the commission's desire to go on record as disagreeing with the governor's recommendation. The committee concluded that it should be considered a part of the commission's charge to forward the cause of public funding for the arts, and that such a cautionary letter to the governor would be in the best interest of the constituents of Indiana. Mr. Ricci and Ms. Clark will draft the letter, which can be presented for approval and signatures at the meeting of the full commission of June 12.

3. **Paneled scores, budget implications and communications to the field.** Mr. Ricci reported that, although all IAC grant panels have met and the top-scoring individuals and organizations are now known, there should be no public announcements of any kind until the final state budget is known sometime later in June. He suggested that an electronic letter be sent out to all grant applicants explaining that dollar amounts are not known at this time, but that announcements of exact award amounts will be forthcoming as soon as possible. The committee agreed with his proposal. Mr. Ricci emphasized that if indeed the IAC budget is cut by 50%, major policy decisions will need to be made by the commission regarding grant programs and delivery systems. Such decisions will require a special meeting of the commission. For the purposes of the meeting of the full commission on June 12, Mr. Ricci will prepare budget scenarios of 10% reduction and 15% reduction, in the hope that the final state budget from the legislature will fall within those parameters, and a special meeting of the commission will not be needed.

4. **ARRA Funds Update.** The Program Evaluation Committee evaluated and ranked applications for funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act during their meeting on June 2. As soon as the state budget agency releases these federal funds, public announcement can be made and funds will be sent to the selected organizations.

5. **Bloomington Area Arts Council Update.** Mr. Ricci reported that the independent review of the BAAC as a viable organization, for the purpose of maintaining its status as a Regional Arts Partner, has been nearly completed. Don Koverman has submitted his report on management and governance; Eric Rogers will submit his report on services, programs and planning within a few days. The review of finances has not been completed. Mr. Ricci reported that a special meeting of the executive committee will be required to act on the report when it is complete. He also recommended that the committee adopt a recommendation to the full commission that organizations who currently hold RAP status and have re-applied for RAP status but have fallen short of a certain desired score during panel review, also be subject to an independent review of their organizational viability. In the long term, this change will allow IAC to better understand if an applying organization has all of the necessary requirements to become (or continue) as a Regional Arts Partner. It would be incumbent on the commission to decide what the desired panel score should be. Ms. Clark moved to recommend a policy change in the RAP application and review process that would allow for an independent review of any organization that failed to attain the benchmark score during paneling. Mr. Stifel seconded. Motion passed.

6. **Nominations Update.** Mr. Ricci reported that he has received no word of any new appointments to the commission from the governor's office. He recommended that commissioners continue to identify candidates for appointment to the commission.

7. **Officers and Committee Chairs for the Upcoming Year.** The Committee on the Future has nominated Jeanne Mirro to become the next Chair of the Arts Commission, her one-year term to begin at the conclusion of the June 12 meeting of the full commission. Karen Ellerbrook has been nominated as vice-chair. The nomination for secretary is pending agreement from the nominee. Officers will be elected at the June 12 meeting. Committee assignments will come in the next few weeks, after commissioners are polled regarding their preferences for committee service. Mr. Ricci reported that commissioner Irene Smith-King from Gary has suggested that the September meeting of the full commission be held in Muncie to coincide with the Governor's Arts Awards on September 25. This meeting had been previously slated to occur in Gary. The likely date and time for the Muncie commission meeting will be Saturday September 26 at 9:00 a.m.

8. **Old business.** None.

9. **New business.** None.

10. **Next Meeting.** The next meeting of the executive committee will be held in Evansville on June 12, prior to the meeting of the full commission.

11. **Adjourn.** Mr. Stifel moved for adjournment. Ms. Ellerbrook seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.